Financial assistance to Karnataka under RGGVY

3086. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought financial assistance under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana for rural electrification;

(b) what is the percentage of rural households proposed to be electrified under the above scheme;

(c) the amount of financial assistance sought for; and

(d) what is the status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In July and August, 2005, Government of Karnataka has submitted 25 Draft Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) with an outlay of Rs. 781.96 crore envisaging electrification of 15,71,343 rural households in the State (which works out to 23.5% of total rural households).

Jobs to youths under RGGVY

3087. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many youths will be provided jobs in Karnataka under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana during 2005-06; and

(b) how many villages in Karnataka will be electrified during 2005-06 under the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), the projects would be eligible for capital subsidy only if, *inter alia*, the State commits to deploy franchisees for the management of rural distribution. The franchisees could be Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), User Associations, Co-operatives or individual entrepreneurs. This will create employment in rural area. Besides this, the infrastructure being created under the RGGVY scheme will also cater to the requirement of agriculture and other activities including irrigation pumpsets, small and medium industries, khadi and village industries, cold chains, healthcare, education and IT. This will facilitate overall rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation.

(b) Government of Karnataka has submitted 25 Draft Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) during July/1st week of August, 2005 for electrification of rural households only in already electrified villages of the State.

Impending power crisis in State

3088. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a survey conducted by ASSOCHEM it had been revealed that many States are heading for power crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said survey had revealed that lack of investment and modernization coupled with huge transmission losses are responsible for the grave power situation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) As informed by ASSOCHEM, a survey on the power position in the country during the current summer season was conducted by them. The main findings of the said survey were as under:

(i) A large number of States including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Meghalaya were in the grip of worsening power shortages as temperature soared to scorching level of above 42 degrees this summer;

(ii) Power theft, leakages and commercial losses as well as lack of fresh investment and modernization coupled with huge transmission losses are responsible for the grave power situation in the country;

(iii) The following suggestions have been made in the survey to tackle power shortages:

- There is a serious need to carry out vigorous distribution reforms and anti theft measures;
- Subsidizing of electricity leads to all the more wastage of power. Even if it is subsidized, it should be for only certain number of units. Beyond that, slabs for number of units consumed and the respective rates should be set;